



April 14, 2022

Rep. Mike Simpson
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

On behalf of the 277 small businesses and hundreds of residents of Historic Downtown Pocatello I write today to express our overwhelming support of the request of transportation funding made by the City of Pocatello to modernize the Center Street underpass.

As you know, the Center Street underpass is the primary entrance to the heart of Historic Downtown Pocatello with over 10,000 vehicles traveling through this structure daily and serves as one of three principle arterial streets that cross the railroad connecting the Downtown area to the rest of Pocatello. Unfortunately, the underpass is in complete disrepair and our community worries about both its safety and appearance.

For over a decade, the City of Pocatello, Bannock County and the State of Idaho have worked together to ensure modernization of the Center Street underpass is a top priority. The project is ready to go, promising to ensure driver and pedestrian safety and to enhance business development and community redevelopment in our very important Historic Downtown district.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this project funding request. Your support of Pocatello and our Historic Downtown area is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Palagi
President and CEO
Historic Downtown Pocatello, Inc.



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April 13, 2022

The Honorable Mike Simpson
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

I am writing to request your support for the City of Pocatello's transportation funding request for modernization of the Center Street underpass.

The Center Street underpass is the primary entrance to the heart of Historic Down Town. It is an essential element of our transportation system with over 10,000 vehicles traveling through this structure daily. This is one of three principle arterial streets that cross the railroad connecting the Down Town area to the rest of Pocatello.

This project would repair the abutments, replace the fascia and portals to the sidewalks, and replacing the retaining walls and sidewalks leading to the pedestrian tunnels. The existing roadway and pedestrian lighting will be upgraded. The existing stormwater system will be modified or replaced to more adequately handle storm events and a pedestrian bridge across Center Street will be constructed. The total cost of the project is \$5,700,000 with the City of Pocatello committed to paying its 7.34% match. The City has been working with the Idaho Transportation Department, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council and several consultants since 2010 on this project. This project has completed final design review, with over \$1,000,000 invested to date. This project is on the Transportation Improvement Project list (TIP) construction schedule FY2025.

We are ready to get to work on this very important modernization program that is required to ensure the safety of the City's 10,000 drivers and pedestrians who use the underpass every day. This project also promises to enhance business development and community redevelopment in our very important Historic Down Town district.

Please contact me at (208) 234-6163 if you have any questions or need additional information. As always, I am grateful for your support of the City of Pocatello and our residents and the assistance of your staff here and in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Blad
Mayor

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VETERAN'S PREFERENCE